

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:DNMILLER:FEW

APPROVED BY EUR - MR. ARMITAGE

EUR/EE - MR. ANDREWS

C - MR. SHINN

D - MR. DUEMLING

S/S:JPMOFFAT

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R 172335Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 142415

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR POPOV'S CALL ON THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

1. BOTH THE AMBASSADOR AND THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SPOKE OF THE GENERAL STATE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND OTHER MATTERS, DURING AN AFTERNOON CALL ON JUNE 12. EACH EXPRESSED OPTIMISM ON BILATERAL AND EAST/WEST RELATIONS IN GENERAL, WHILE HIGHLIGHTING THE PROBLEMS REMAINING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE ALSO PARTICIPATED WITH TWO OTHER DEPT OFFS ATTENDING.

2. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY BEGAN BY OUTLINING AREAS WHERE WE WOULD HOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT: ACCESS TO BULGARIAN SOCIETY (THROUGH EXCHANGES AND BY OUR DIPLOMATS), IMPROVED PRESS TREATMENT AND FURTHER GROWTH IN TRADE. HE MADE FAVORABLE MENTION OF THE ECONOMIC COUNCIL AND THE NOW EFFECTIVE

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CONSULAR AGREEMENT.

3. DEPUTY SECRETARY THEN STATED ABBOTT LABORATORIES HAD TELEPHONED HIM TO EXPRESS INTEREST IN THE TREATMENT OF MR. ISPENTCHIAN. POPOV RESPONDED GOB HAD INFORMED HIM THAT BOTH THE LEBANESE (ISPENTCHIAN) AND BULGARIAN INDIVIDUALS HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH BRIBERY. ARMITAGE NOTED THAT WE HAD NO INFORMATION THAT CHARGES HAD BEEN BROUGHT.

4. POPOV OUTLINED THE NOW FAMILIAR GOALS OF THE GOB: TO NEGOTIATE AN ARRAY OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS AND TO EXCHANGE VISITS OF TOP-LEVEL GOVERNMENT LEADERS (POPOV SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE).

5. ACCORDING TO POPOV THERE HAVE BEEN SIX SUGGESTIONS FOR BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, ALTHOUGH HE LISTED ONLY SCIENTIFIC, CULTURAL, AGRICULTURAL AND AIR TRAFFIC. ARMITAGE NOTED THAT UNDER SECRETARY CAMPBELL (USDA) HAD BEEN IN BULGARIA AND HAD DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME SORT OF JOINT AGRICULTURAL STATEMENT. HE COMMENTED THAT WITH THE POLES WE HAD ARRANGEMENT WHICH INCLUDED PROVISION FOR ADVANCE PROJECTION OF PURCHASE REQUIREMENTS. DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID WE WOULD BE DISCUSSING WHAT HE HAD IN MIND WITH UND.SEC. CAMPBELL AFTER HE RETURNS TO US. THE STATUS OF THE CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION, HE SAID. FURTHER, AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF CSCE THERE WILL BE MORE "MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE." NOTING HIS EXPERIENCE AS AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY MENTIONED THAT HE HAD LEARNED MUCH COULD BE DONE WITHOUT GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENTS.

6. POPOV QUERIED ABOUT THE CHANCES OF A TRADE AGREEMENT WITH BULGARIA, THE STATUS OF THE AGREEMENT WITH ROMANIA AND THE TRADE ACT. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT FORECAST ON A TRADE AGREEMENT WITH BULGARIA, AND THAT ROMANIAN PERFORMANCE ON EMIGRATION IS NOT AT THE LEVEL CONGRESS THINKS IT SHOULD BE. ON THE TRADE ACT, HE NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT PROPOSED TO INTRODUCE AN AMENDMENT BUT THAT THE TIME WAS NOT RIGHT TO MAKE PROGRESS ON THIS.

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7. AMBASSADOR POPOV STATED "I HEAR MANY PEOPLE HERE" WHO DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE EMIGRATION PROVISIONS ARE ATTACHED TO THE TRADE ACT. HE NOTED THAT BULGARIA "HAS THE BEST RECORD" ON JEWISH EMIGRATION AND THAT ONLY 4-5000 JEWS REMAIN IN BULGARIA. "NOT ONE CASE EXISTS" WHERE A JEW HAS BEEN PROHIBITED FROM EMIGRATING TO ISRAEL, HE SAID.

8. THE AMBASSADOR OPINED THAT BILATERAL POLITICAL CONTACTS ARE "NON-EXISTENT" AND NOTED THAT BOTH THE PRESI-

DENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD BEEN INVITED TO BULGARIA. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY STATED THAT HE COULD NOT SAY WHAT WAS POSSIBLE WITH RESPECT TO THE SCHEDULE OF EITHER THE PRESIDENT OR THE SECRETARY, BUT THAT SOME FURTHER OFFICIAL VISIT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE.

9. POPOV RAISED THE BULGARIAN REQUEST FOR COMMERCIAL OFFICES IN CHICAGO AND SAN FRANCISCO. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY INQUIRED AS TO THE NATURE OF THESE PROPOSED OFFICES, AND POPOV REPLIED "WE HAVEN'T SPECIFIED."

10. CONVERSATION CONCLUDED WITH REFERENCES TO NEED FOR PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS ON CSCE, MIDDLE EAST AND CYPRUS. KISSINGER

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